

Message Text

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16

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 ST-01 /029 W

----- 002526

O R 030908Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8405

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 3489

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY/FO AND A/SY/T/SP

KARACHI FOR RSS

ATHENS FOR OIC/TSO

BEIRUT FOR RSO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC ASUP JO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VEHICLES

REFS: (A) AMMAN 0140, (B) STATE303786 DEC 75, (C) STATE 157938,
(D) STATE 002464

1. BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION, THE FULLY ARMORED AMMAN 1971 CHEVROLET IMPALA (NO. 164691C183172) TEMPORARILY LOANED TO BEIRUT HAS BEEN LOST DURING THE RECENT ASSASSINATIONS IN BEIRUT. SINCE THE PRESENT COM VEHICLE HAS ONLY LIMITED ARMORING, URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE IN OBTAINING A NEW FULLY ARMORED COM VEHICLE FOR EMBASSY AMMAN.

2. THE CURRENT SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR AT POST, 1974 CHEVROLET BEL AIR 4-DOOR SEDAN, NO. LK69444152207, IS NOW COMPLETELY OUT OF USE DUE TO BROKEN TRANSMISSION, DIFFERENTIAL AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. THIS VEHICLE INITIALLY ARRIVED AT POST WITH A COMPLETELY BURNT OUT ENGINE AND HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTANT REPAIR AND OUT OF USE A CONSIDERABLE PERCENTAGE OF THE TIME. MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE VEHICLE WERE REPORTED

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IN CITED REFERENCE (A) IN RESPONSE TO CITED REFERENCE (C).

ALSO, THE POST HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH THE VEHICLE SINCE ITS INITIAL RECEIPT OF THE VEHICLE. CURRENTLY, PARTS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FROM DEALERS IN THE SAUDI ARABIAN PENINSULA BUT LOCAL MECHANICS DO NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED EXPERTISE TO ACCOMPLISH THE REQUIRED MAJOR REPAIR WORK. EVEN IF THE VEHICLE IS COMPLETELY OVERHAULED BY THE LOCAL MECHANICS, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE VEHICLE WILL NEVER MEET THE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS OF A FUNCTIONAL SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR. AS MENTIONED IN CITED REFERENCE (A) AND IN OTHER PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE, THE SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR SHOULD BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY AS THE REPAIR COSTS ARE BECOMING ASTRONOMICAL. CURRENTLY, THE EMBASSY IS USING AN ORDINARY MOTOR POOL VEHICLE AS THE SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR WHICH IS TOTALLY INCAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN A/SY-APPROVED SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR. ONCE AGAIN, URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE IN OBTAINING AN A/SY-APPROVED SECURITY FOLLOW-CAR.

3. SEDANS WITH PARTIAL ARMORING ARE SCHEDULED FOR AMMAN BEFORE END OF CY-76. IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF POST CAN BE GIVEN PRIORITY FOR ARMORING AND SHIPMENT SINCE THE LOSS OF THE TWO (2) VEHICLES MENTIONED ABOVE HAS ALMOST DEPLETED THE MOTOR POOL OF VEHICLES AND THE TIGHT VEHICULAR SECURITY MEASURES AT POST HAVE DEPRECIATED IMMEASURABLY. ARMORING OF FOUR (4) VEHICLES CURRENTLY IN MOTOR POOL WILL NOT ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION SINCE ALL VEHICLES IN POOR OPERATING CONDITION.

4. DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE URGENTLY REQUESTED.
PICKERING

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